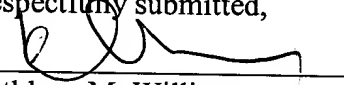


Applicants submit that the cancellation of claim 48 herein without prejudice renders this rejection moot. Applicants note, however, that in canceling the Markush claim listing specific diseases, Applicants in no way acknowledge that the scope of enablement of the claims does not extend to those diseases or others. Rather, Applicants submit that anomalous regulation of NF- κ B (particularly a decrease in NF- κ B activity or a failure to increase NF- κ B activity in response to a stimulus) has been positively associated with the pathology of many autoimmune diseases having different disease etiology, thereby supporting Applicants' conclusion that anomalous NF- κ B regulation or responsiveness is a central factor in autoimmune disease in general. In the interest of obtaining protection for the claims deemed allowable in the present Office Action, Applicants have herein canceled claim 48, and intend to continue the pursuit of protection for claim 48 in a continuing application.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that all issues raised in the Final Office Action are addressed herein and that upon entry of the proposed amendment all claims are allowed.

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Respectfully submitted,


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